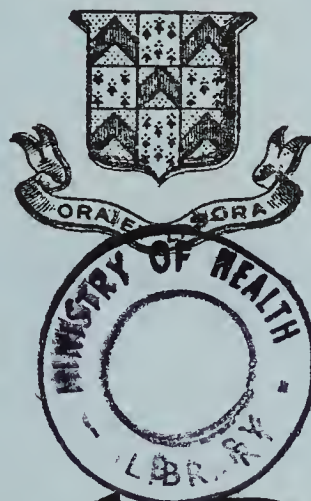


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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1956

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.



LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1956

*To the Chairman and Members,
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the health of the District and the work of the Health Department.

The vital statistics for 1956 compare quite well with those of previous years, the birth rate being slightly higher than in the previous year, the death rate the same and the infant mortality rate only slightly higher. All the figures, when adjusted to allow for differences in age and sex composition of the population, can be regarded as reasonably satisfactory in comparison with those for the country as a whole.

The incidence of the common infectious diseases was not unduly large, being about average for scarlet fever and whooping cough, below average for measles, while poliomyelitis did not occur at all. The position regarding bacillary dysentery and food-poisoning was, however, less satisfactory, as there were 4 cases of food-poisoning, against none in the previous year, and 26 notified cases of bacillary dysentery, as compared with 23 cases in 1955 and 18 cases in 1954.

The improvement in the statistics relating to tuberculosis shown in 1955 continued in 1956, with a slightly reduced number of new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis and a further year without death due to either pulmonary or non-pulmonary infection.

Progress in dealing with unfit houses was slightly greater than in 1955, but as not as great as might have been hoped for. There is good reason to believe, however, that the Council's programme for statutory action in relation to unfit houses is now getting well under way. Some progress was also made in the abatement of overcrowding.

The new sewage works at Shenstone, mentioned in my report for 1955, was started during 1956. Other planned works are either awaiting approval by the Minister of Housing and Local Government or in process of preparation for presentation to him for his consideration. It is obvious that much work requires to be done in this field, at, it must be hoped, an accelerated rate in the near future.

Much preliminary work was done by the Public Health Inspectors during the year in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations issued under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, this work necessitating an inspection of all premises where food is sold to the public. It is hoped that this work will lead to an improved standard of hygiene in premises where food is handled.

I would again take this opportunity of thanking Members of the Council and Officers in other Departments of the Council for the continued interest and help in the work of the Department, and the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector for their contributions to this report.

C. E. JAMISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Vice-Chairman: J. C. LEES.

and also

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

GEORGE LEEDER, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

WILLIAM E. SHAW, M.A.P.H.I.

PAUL R. BRAMLEY

(Resigned 10th June, 1956)

J. B. DUCKWORTH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(Appointed 1st September, 1956)

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the District remained as in previous years. Rather surprisingly, the population, as estimated by the Registrar General, was slightly smaller than in 1955. The reduction is no doubt accounted for by the reduction in the number of service personnel in barracks and camps throughout the area. The number of inhabited houses showed only a small increase on the figures of the previous year. As regards rateable value and the product of a penny rate, these figures show substantial increases on previous years, due of course, to the revaluation of all properties. The figures for 1956 are set out below:—

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	84,715
Population	...	...	...	...	...	41,250
Number of inhabited houses at 1/4/56 according to						
Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	10,687
Rateable Value at 1/4/56	...	...	...	...	£346,136/10/-	
Net Product of Penny Rate at 1/4/56	...	...	...	...	...	£1,368

VITAL STATISTICS

These figures relate to births and deaths, and reflect both the effect of social conditions and the efficiency of the health services provided. The most important figures are set out below in the same form as in previous years:—

Live Births—

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	298	271	569
Illegitimate	...	...	13	8	21
Total	...	...	311	279	590
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population					14.3

Still Births—

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	6	8	14
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
Total	...	...	6	8	14...
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Births					23.2

			Male	Female	Total
Deaths	...	...	230	221	451
Death rate per 1,000 population					10.9

Deaths in Infants under one year of age—

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	11	5	16
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	11	5	16

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births 27.1

Deaths from Cancer		...	...	...	...	67
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0

It will be seen that one birth in 28 was illegitimate, a proportion which compares quite favourably with other Districts. The still-birth rate, at 23.2 per 1,000 total births, was slightly lower than in the previous year.

In order to assist in the comparison of other statistics with earlier years, the following table gives the figures of population, birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate during the last 15 years:—

Year			Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1942	...	...	32,000	18.7	9.5	37.2
1943	...	...	32,000	17.7	10.4	45.3
1944	...	...	32,760	19.1	10.1	38.1
1945	...	...	32,710	19.0	10.0	48.0
1946	...	...	33,790	19.4	9.2	45.9
1947	...	...	34,400	21.5	10.0	43.5
1948	...	...	34,340	17.8	9.1	37.6
1949	...	...	37,740	18.7	10.1	49.2
1950	...	...	40,340	14.5	9.3	29.0
1951	...	...	41,940	13.9	8.2	37.8
1952	...	...	41,970	14.4	7.7	33.1
1953	...	...	43,180	13.5	8.3	22.3
1954	...	...	42,580	13.6	10.3	25.9
1955	...	...	42,580	12.7	10.9	18.6
1956	...	...	41,250	14.3	10.9	27.1

The increase in population shown for 1950 and subsequent years is due to the inclusion in the figures for those years of service population not previously included in population returns. The decrease in the birth rate since 1950 is also due, at least in part, to the same cause, as the number of births among the service population is, of course, smaller than the average for the community as a whole. The inclusion of the service population caused a reduction in the death rate in 1950. Since 1954, however, the figures of deaths have been swollen by the inclusion of certain civilian deaths in hospitals, not previously attributed to the district. The infant mortality rate is not affected by the circumstances mentioned above. It tends to fluctuate rather widely, however, by reason of the very small number of infant deaths on which the rate is based. As stated in earlier years, this leads to a disproportionately large increase or decrease in the rate resulting from a very small difference in the actual numbers of infant deaths. Fuller details of infant deaths are given in a later section of this report.

Before comparing the birth and death rates of the District with those of the county as a whole, it is necessary to adjust the local figures to remove distortion caused by the difference between age and sex distribution in Lichfield Rural District and in the rest of the country. The figures, adjusted in this way, are given below:—

	LIVE BIRTHRATE	DEATH RATE	INFANT MORTALITY RATE
England and Wales	15.7	11.7	23.8
LICHFIELD R.D.	16.0	11.1	27.1

As will be seen, the local figures do not differ in any significant degree from the national figures.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows the cause of death in those persons dying during 1956:—

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	2	2	4
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	3	13
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ..	9	1	10
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	8	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	17	32
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	0	2
Diabetes	2	5	7
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	29	35	64
Coronary disease, angina	27	15	42
Hypertension with heart disease ..	5	5	10
Other heart disease	31	48	79
Other circulatory disease	11	8	19
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	6	8	14
Bronchitis	22	5	27
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	7	3	10
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	4	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	0	2	2
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	31	39	70
Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	4
All other accidents	3	4	7
Suicide	2	1	3
Homicide and operations of war ..	0	0	0
TOTALS ..	230	221	451

Of these deaths, 16 occurred in infants under one year of age, 4 between 1 year and 5 years, one between 5 years and 15 years, while at the other end of life, 324 deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

Cancer of the lung and bronchus caused 10 deaths, of which 9 were in males and one in a female. These figures compare with 6 male deaths and 2 female deaths in the previous year. Attention has now been drawn nationally to the fact that the incidence of death from this disease is

much higher among heavy smokers than in moderate smokers, and in moderate smokers than in non-smokers, the descriptions being applied in both cases to those who have been smoking in those amounts for a considerable number of years. Although the conclusion that the increased incidence of cancer of the lung and bronchus is due mainly to smoking is based almost entirely on statistical evidence, it appears to be the only logical conclusion to be drawn from the known facts, and therefore merits very serious consideration by all interested in the prevention of disease. It is now felt that the evidence is strong enough to justify health education, particularly among the young, with a view to placing before the community the conclusions reached by the Medical Research Council after an exhaustive review of all relevant information, together with the evidence upon which those conclusions are based. This health education is now being conducted by local health authorities throughout the country.

It is interesting to note that, as in earlier years, bronchitis caused many more deaths in males than in females, a feature which is general throughout the country. Investigations are proceeding in an attempt to discover the cause of this phenomenon.

Although not listed separately in the above table, pneumoconiosis was included among the factors causing death in 5 men dying during the year, at ages ranging from 60 years to 75 years. It was given as the primary cause of death in one case and as a secondary cause in the remaining 4 cases.

Accidents of various kinds again caused a considerable number of deaths. Of the 4 traffic accidents, 3 occurred in adults, the remaining one involving a child of 2 years. Two of the accidents not caused by motor vehicles were due to clothing of adults becoming ignited by a coal fire, two were due to complications resulting from falls of elderly people in their own homes, one to an accident occurring to an adult on a farm and one to a child who fell into a canal.

Suicidal deaths were fewer than in the previous year. One of the persons was between 50 years and 60 years, while the remaining two were between 20 years and 30 years.

Infant deaths were due to the following causes:—

Stated Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 1 year	Total Deaths under 1 year of age
Prematurity	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Congenital Atelectasis ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Birth Injury	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meningocele	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hydrops Foetalis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Gastro-enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	12	1	—	—	13	1	2	—	—	16

The total of infant deaths was rather higher than in the previous year. It will be seen that no less than 12 of the total of 16 occurred in the first week of life, 6 being attributed to prematurity and 4 to congenital abnormality. This again emphasises the remaining problem of mortality during the very early weeks of life, now that the infantile mortality in the remaining part of the first year of life is yielding so well to medical and social measures.

The position regarding maternal mortality is less favourable than in earlier years, 2 mothers losing their lives as a result of complications occurring during pregnancy.

Great satisfaction can be derived from the fact that, for the second year in succession, no person died from any form of tuberculosis.

HOUSING

Particulars were given in my report for 1955 of the programme which the Council had undertaken in relation to clearance of unfit houses, and which had been approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. Unfortunately, action to implement this programme was slower during 1956 than had been hoped, mainly due to the complicated administrative procedure which has to be followed in dealing with this work, especially when it is necessary to purchase the houses and land in the area being cleared, in order to allow redevelopment of the site. Although time-consuming, it is felt that this procedure is the correct one to follow in those cases where the land is suitable for redevelopment, as it enables people to be rehoused in the

vicinity of their existing homes, and also limits the demand for additional land, which might otherwise have to be taken from agriculture. Action for clearance of unfit houses is, therefore, taken in close consultation with the Surveyor, who advises the Council as to whether the sites being cleared are suitable for redevelopment.

Referring to my report for 1955, I need only add that the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed, in due course, the Compulsory Purchase Order made by the Council on the 12 houses at The Square, Edingale.

Coming to action initiated during 1956, the following table shows the action taken by the Council in relation to houses unfit for human habitation:—

PROPERTY	STATUTORY ACTION TAKEN
4 Houses, High Street, Colton.	Compulsory Purchase Order made by Council, 23rd March, 1956.
4 Houses, Lloyd's Row, Colton.	Compulsory Purchase Order made by Council, 23rd March, 1956.
4 Houses, Bank Top, Colton.	Clearance Order made by Council, 23rd March 1956.
4 and 5, Browns Row, Colton.	Demolition Order made by Council 27th April, 1956.
51, Brook End, Fazeley.	Undertaking accepted by Council, 28th September, 1956.
42, Brook End, Fazeley.	Demolition Order made by Council, 23rd Noxember, 1956.
6 Houses, The Square, Hammerwich.	Compulsory Purchase Order made by Council, 28th December, 1956.

As will be seen, the number of houses involved, 22, is slightly greater than the number of houses dealt with in the previous year. The owners of the houses dealt with by Demolition Orders did not exercise their right of appeal in the County Court. In the case of the Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders, one owner only lodged an objection with the Minister against the Order made. The Minister of Housing and Local Government has not yet given his decision in this case. All the other Orders have been confirmed by the Minister.

The number of persons on the waiting-list for Council houses was reduced fairly substantially during the year. This improved position was due to the rehousing of 109 families in newly built housing accommodation and a further 91 families in relet housing accommodation.

Although 200 families were thus rehoused during the year, the waiting list did not contract proportionately, the actual decrease being from 875 to 727 families. In view of the social importance of abating overcrowding, the improved housing position is very welcome.

The building of houses by private enterprise increased during 1956, 75 such houses being completed, while 131 were under construction at the end of the year. It is not possible to estimate what effect this building will have on overcrowding in existing houses.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

The need for compulsory removal of persons to hostel or hospital in order to ensure necessary care and attention bears a relationship to housing circumstances, particularly of elderly people, as well as to the efficiency of the domiciliary nursing and welfare services. The former still leaves much to be desired as housing conditions of the elderly which ought to be better than those for the rest of the community, are often less good. The principal change in the domiciliary services has been a marked expansion during recent years in the home help assistance available to the elderly.

Although one or two border-line cases were encountered, statutory action for compulsory removal from the home did not actually prove necessary in any case.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The same valuable services were provided by the Public Health and County Chemical Laboratories both to general medical practitioners and to myself as in previous years. Results of examinations carried out were as follows:—

Swabs:—

				Positive	Negative	Total
Throat	...	...	...	—	16	16
Nose	...	...	...	—	2	2
Sputa for Tubercle Bacillus	...			21	92	113

Other Specimens:—

				Normal	Abnormal	Total
Faeces	...	...	...	95	62	157
Blood	...	...	...	9	—	9
Urine	...	...	...	1	—	1
Rectal	...	...	...	—	1	1
Vaginal	...	...	...	1	—	1

Sample of Drinking Water:—

	Fit	Unfit	Total
Chemical Examination ..	—	3	3
Bacteriological Examination	1	3	4

Other Water:—

Chemical Examination ..	—	—	12
Bacteriological Examination	—	—	1

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

No substantial change in the position regarding hospital admissions occurred during the year. Hospital beds were still available for most of those maternity patients needing or desiring them, though not perhaps as readily as in recent years. No real difficulty appeared to arise in arranging the much reduced number of admissions to hospital of patients suffering from infectious diseases. The difficulty of securing the admission of the elderly chronic sick to hospital increased, if anything, during the year. Investigation of home circumstances of those patients placed on the waiting list by their family doctors continued in appropriate cases, as these are often more vital than the actual medical condition in relationship to the urgency for admission. These investigations showed how much hardship delayed admission causes in individual cases.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The circumstances relating to these remain as stated in previous reports.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

This is probably the most encouraging as well as one of the most important fields of public health work.

VENEREAL DISEASE

As patients are diagnosed and treated at Birmingham General, Wolverhampton Royal, Walsall Manor, Burton-on-Trent and Stafford General Hospitals, it is not possible to ascertain how many patients came from this district. It may be of interest, however, to note that the figures for the Administrative County of Staffordshire for 1955, the last year for which figures are available, show that the incidence of gonorrhoea and syphilis was 105 and 39 cases respectively, as compared with 355 and 186 cases respectively in 1945. These figures show the steady improvement in control of the disease during the last decade.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of case of the various notifiable infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified during 1956 and the preceding 4 years:—

NATURE OF CASE	TOTAL 1952	TOTAL 1953	TOTAL 1954	TOTAL 1955	TOTAL 1956	1956		AGE DISTRIBUTION
						MALE	FEMALE	
Scarlet Fever	42	59	65	16	20	12	8	Under 1 ... — 1 year ... 3 2 years ... 2 3 years ... — 4 years ... 2 5-9 ... 6 10-14 ... 1 15-24 ... 6 25 and over —
Whooping Cough	75	101	52	20	62	29	33	Under 1 ... 3 1 year ... 10 2 years ... 8 3 years ... 5 4 years ... 7 5-9 ... 27 10-14 ... 1 15-24 ... — 25 and over 1
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	3	1	3	2	—	—	—	
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	
Measles	109	690	13	461	23	12	11	Under 1 ... 5 1 year ... 5 2 years ... 1 3 years ... 1 4 years ... 2 5-9 ... 5 10-14 ... 2 15-24 ... 2 25 and over —
Pneumonia	44	59	42	19	20	13	7	Under 5 ... 1 5-14 ... 7 15-44 ... 4 45-64 ... 2 65 and over 6
Dysentery	23	2	18	23	26	15	11	Under 1 ... 1 1 year ... 1 2 years ... 1 3 years ... 3 4 years ... 2 5-9 ... 8 10-14 ... 2 15-24 ... 1 25 and over 7
Erysipelas	4	4	11	6	11	8	3	Under 5 ... — 5-14 ... — 15-44 ... 6 45-64 ... 3 65 and over 2
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	
Food Poisoning	—	6	—	—	4	1	3	Under 5 ... — 5-14 ... — 15-24 ... 2 45-64 ... 2 65 and over —
Meningococcal Infection	5	2	—	—	3	3	—	Under 5 ... 1 5-14 ... — 15-24 ... 2

It will be seen that the picture shown is, on the whole, a favourable one. Thus, the incidences of scarlet fever and whooping cough were about average, while that of measles was considerably below average. No cases of poliomyelitis, either paralytic or non-paralytic, were diagnosed. The incidences of erysipelas and meningococcal infections were higher than in previous years, but did not give cause for anxiety.

The position regarding bacillary dysentery is less satisfactory. It will be noted that about a third of all cases occurred in children of less than school age, about a third in children of school age and the remaining third in adults. A number of the cases were discovered by investigation of family contacts of notified patients, such patients often having suffered from mild and transient diarrhoea. Children attending infant schools, where the disease is most likely to spread widely, were excluded till evidence was obtained that they were no longer excreting the organism. No large-scale outbreak occurred in any school. It is realised, however, that the disease is more prevalent than is indicated by the figures of cases notified, as many parents do not seek medical advice for what is regarded as a relatively mild intestinal upset. While this attitude is understandable, it is none the less unfortunate, as the disease can be very serious in a small proportion of those affected. Instructions now issued to Head Teachers through the Education Department have led to better reporting of outbreaks in the early stages, while there is still hope that they can be controlled.

Of the 4 cases of food-poisoning, 3 occurred in one family, following a family party. Other cases occurred affecting persons not resident in this District, who attended the party in question. Samples of the food consumed were not available for investigation by the time the outbreak was reported. Subsequent enquiries did not reveal the source of infection. No spread occurred beyond those present at the time of the party. The remaining case was a sporadic one, no cause for which could be found on investigation.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the particulars of new cases of tuberculosis, there being no deaths from the disease, during the year:—

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	1	—
5—10 years	—	1	1	1
10—15 years	—	—	—	—
15—20 years	—	1	—	—
20—25 years	—	3	—	—
25—35 years	3	1	—	—
35—45 years	1	2	—	—
45—55 years	3	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	2	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	1	—	—
Totals	9	9	2	1

The significance of the figures for the year can best be assessed by comparison with those for previous years. The figures for the last 16 years are therefore set out below:—

YEAR	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1941	22	4	14	5
1942	12	6	14	7
1943	15	2	11	3
1944	21	4	14	2
1955	11	3	7	4
1946	19	6	11	2
1947	22	7	11	3
1948	22	6	6	1
1949	21	5	3	—
1950	20	12	5	2
1951	18	9	6	1
1952	24	10	3	2
1953	30	3	6	—
1954	37	7	9	1
1955	18	5	—	—
1956	18	3	—	—

The most notable fact revealed by the table is that, for the second year in succession, no death resulted from either pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis. This is indeed a noteworthy achievement, in view of the quite considerable mortality from the disease as recently as a few years ago. As stated in my report last year, this result must be attributed to the efficiency of modern treatment. The treatment has, of course, been made more effective by the ready availability of sanatorium beds for those patients requiring them. This position contrasts very strikingly with the relative scarcity of these beds only a few years ago.

New cases have not, as yet, been reduced correspondingly, at least as far as pulmonary tuberculosis is concerned. Even here, however, the figure is considerably below the average of the last 5 years. It can be reasonably hoped that the number of new cases will soon fall further, as a result of the earlier diagnosis and energetic treatment of existing cases which is now being achieved. As regards new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, the position is very encouraging now that all milk being distributed is either from tuberculin-tested cows or is heat-treated before sale. The need for this measure is shown once again by the fact that tubercle bacilli were found on 5 occasions during the year in milk produced in the District.

ANTHRAX

Notices were served on farmers 16 times during the year in connection with illness of animals, suspected of being due to anthrax. The disease was confirmed on 6 occasions. The necessary precautions were enforced by the police. No anthrax infection was reported in human beings.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Action was commenced during the year to carry out an exhaustive survey of premises where food is handled before sale to the public, with a view to enforcing regulations issued under the Act. This survey was well under way by the end of the year and, although time-consuming, should prove well worth while.

The results of examination of milk sampled in the District by the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority for cleanliness, efficiency of pasteurisation and sterilisation and presence of tubercle bacilli, were as follows:—

DETAILS (AND SIGNIFICANCE) OF TESTS									
Grade of Milk		Meth. Blue (Cleanliness)		Phosphatase (Efficient Pasteurisa- tion)		Turbidity (Efficient Sterilisation)		Biological (Tuberculosis)	
		Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Neg.	Pos.
T.T...	..	20	1	—	—	—	—	7	—
T.T. (Past.)	..	36	—	33	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised..	..	62	4	60	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised ..	..	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—
Totals ..	..	118	5	93	—	20	—	7	—

It is encouraging to note that the results of the test for cleanliness are much more satisfactory than in previous years, and that the tests for pasteurisation and sterilisation showed those processes to have been efficiently carried out in each milk investigated. It is also satisfactory to note that none of the milks sampled in the District contained tubercle bacilli. As stated in an earlier paragraph, however, tubercle bacilli were found in 5 milks sampled at processing plants outside the District.

Information regarding sampling of food carried out by the Food and Drugs Authority are given below:—

Nature of Food	Number of Samples Taken
MILK:	
Pasteurised	35
Tuberculin Tested	3
Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested	19
Channel Islands	5
Sterilised	16
GENERAL FOODS:	
Arrowroot, Bread, Procea Bread, Butter, Beans, Butter Beans, Cascara Sagrada, Cake Mixture, Chicken, Luncheon Meat, Clotted Cream, Cough Syrup, Coffee & Chicory Essence, Cod Liver Oil, Cod Liver Emulsion, Cod Liver Oil Capsules, Corned Beef, Compound Syrup of Figs, Custard Powder, Extract of Malt, Eye Ointment, Plain Flour, Self Raising Flour, Flowers of Sulphur, Garden Mint in Vinegar, Glace Cherries, Gravy Browning, Halibut Liver Oil, Halibut Liver Oil Capsules, Indian Brandee, Ice Cream, Malt Vinegar, Jam, Greengage, Kwik-Set Vanilla, Lard, Margarine, Margarine with Butter, Condensed Milk, Orangeade Powder, Orange Pie Filling, Prunes, Pepper, Ready Meal, Raspberries in Syrup, Raspberry Jelly, Creamed Rice, Ground Rice, Robsoup, Herring Roe, Pork Sausages, Beef Sausages, Salmon, Salad Cream, Semonila, Shredded Suet, Sugar, Sugar Puff, Stewed Steak, Tea, Tinned Tomatoes, Tomato Ketchup, Treacle, Veal and Ham Spread, Xmas Pudding	92

Of the samples of milk, all but one were found to be genuine, the exception being a milk found to be 4% deficient in fat. Repeat samples were found to be genuine. Five of the samples of general foods were found to be unsatisfactory either in composition or in labelling. Cautions were issued in 2 instances, the manufacturing process modified in one and labels amended in the remaining 2 instances. All the actions in question were taken by the County Council.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

Examinations were carried out on 14 persons during the year to ascertain their suitability for the work they were due to undertake and for admission to the Council's superannuation scheme.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Information regarding inspection of factories undertaken during the year, defects found and action taken are set out below:—

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

PREMISES	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power ..	32	1	—
Factories without mechanical power	6	—	—
Other Premises under the Act: (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises)	4	—	—
TOTAL ..	42	1	—

2. Defects Found and Action Taken

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	In respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted.
Want of cleanliness ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	1	1	1	—
Sanitary Unsuitable or				
Conveniences defective	1	1	1	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
No certificate as to means of escape in case of fire	—	—	—	—
Total ..	2	2	2	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS

(Prepared by J. G. RIMAND, Esq., M.I.MUN.E. Engineer and Surveyor)

Generally throughout the district disposal works have been well maintained and kept in condition by the workmen employed by you. Final effluents are still below the standard of recent years; this in my opinion, is due to the effect that household detergents, now used as a substitute for soap, are having on the process of sewage purification. Investigations being made with a view to overcoming this problem up to the present have not been successful. It should be noted that plans are now in course of preparation for the enlargement of certain works.

Alrewas.—The sewage disposal works at Alrewas is working satisfactorily, but the flow from the village has increased, and the works is now working to capacity.

Proposals for extending this works will be prepared in the near future. Although negotiations have been in hand for some years regarding cleaning out the brook, I regret to say that these have not produced any result.

In the village of Fradley the general sewage system is unsatisfactory and steps will have to be taken at a later date to connect either to the Alrewas system or to provide a separate disposal works.

Armitage and Longdon.—The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for these parishes is working very satisfactorily. The small sewage disposal works at Armitage has had its reserve capacity absorbed and consideration has been given to its being replaced with a pumping plant, discharging into the new disposal works. Proposals for this will be prepared shortly.

Brindley Heath.—The new disposal works is working satisfactorily.

The existing works at Brindley Heath has to be kept in operation due to the school being connected.

The works at Penkridge Bank is working satisfactorily.

Burntwood.—The pumping station at Cannock Road is working satisfactorily but the Peter's Lane, Edial disposal works are in need of enlargement to deal with the increased flow and the large quantity of storm water received, together with improvements in the methods of sludge disposal.

The works at Chasetown, having regard to the large housing development at Oakdene, have been overhauled, and some minor improvements carried out. Conditions have, in consequence, considerably improved.

The Council have approved the preparation of proposals for the enlargement and modernising of the sewerage and sewage disposal system in this parish and a report and survey is nearing completion.

Clifton Campville.—The sewerage system of this village is very inadequate. Plans for a proper system are nearing completion.

Colton.—Conditions show little change in this parish, but some attention will be needed to the main sewer and the disposal works in the next few years.

Curborough and Elmhurst.—The pumping station and disposal works near to the outfall of the sewer in the Elmhurst portion of the parish, whilst effecting a considerable improvement, has at times discharged an effluent below standard.

Drayton Bassett.—The pumping station and disposal works constructed to deal with the sewage from the Council's housing estate is working satisfactorily. The general sewerage of the village, however, is unsatisfactory, and steps will have to be taken in the future to deal with same. The new pumping station at Drayton Manor is working satisfactorily.

Edingale.—The small pumping station and disposal works, constructed to deal with the Council houses, is working satisfactorily. The general sewerage system of the village, however, is unsatisfactory, and steps will have to be taken at a very early date to put this in order.

Fazeley.—The sewage from Fazeley is dealt with by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee, passing from the main sewer in Watling Street, under the canal, to Tamworth. Considerable development has taken place at Mile Oak, and the main sewer is inadequate. The pumping station at Brook-end, Fazeley, is working satisfactorily.

Hammerwich.—The Watling Street disposal works is working satisfactorily, and the work carried out to the bacteria beds has resulted in an improved effluent. A scheme is being prepared for the enlargement of this works to deal with development in Brownhills.

A scheme has been prepared to deal with Newtown, which will mean the construction of a small disposal works.

Hamstall Ridware.—A scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village, but it appears unlikely that same will be carried out for some little time.

Harlaston.—The improvements now carried out have resulted in an improved effluent.

Hopwas.—These works, which were reconstructed before the war, are working satisfactorily.

Kings Bromley.—A scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a small disposal works, but, as in the case of Hamstall Ridware, it appears unlikely that same will be carried out for some little time. In the meantime, the tank constructed as a temporary measure at the sewer outfall is working as satisfactorily as can be expected.

Mavesyn Ridware.—The small pumping station and disposal plants constructed in Hill Ridware and Blithbury, in order to deal with the sewage from the Council houses, are working satisfactorily.

The general position of Hill Ridware is, however, unsatisfactory, and will have to be dealt with in the near future.

Shenstone.—The new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is under consideration and will provide a modern works. The pumping stations at Lynn Lane and Wood End are working satisfactorily. The disposal works at Little Aston are giving a satisfactory effluent, even though they are working above capacity. The question of the enlargement of these works is under consideration with a view to dealing with a portion of the Aldridge Urban District and the proposals have been approved by the Ministry.

Streethay.—These works were re-constructed during the war in order to deal with the flow from W.A.A.F. Camp. A modern bacteria bed and humus tanks have been provided, and these are working satisfactorily.

Swinfen and Packington.—The disposal works at Botany Bay, to deal with the Council housing estate, is working very satisfactorily.

Wall.—The disposal works for this village is working fairly satisfactorily. The Muckley Corner end of the parish will, however, need attention in the future. I have prepared proposals for same being connected to the extension proposed for Hammerwich, in order that this will be dealt with at the Peter's Lane disposal works.

Wigginton.—Conditions, in the portion of Wigginton village which is sewered, are quite good, the disposal being carried out by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee.

Whittington.—The disposal works in this village is working satisfactorily. Consideration, however, will have to be given, in the not-so-distant future, for the modernising of same. In the meantime, the pumping plant has been modernised.

Elford, Gentleshaw, Hints and Weeford. — There is no change to report in the sewerage conditions existing in these parishes, which have been considered, along with the remainder of the district, by the Health Committee, to whom a report has been presented. This report makes certain recommendations as to the order of the priority in which the works detailed in it shall be carried out, and steps are being taken to implement the Committee's decision.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the District for 1956.

As in previous years the Report shows that Housing in the district has again been the most important feature of the work of the Department with an increasing emphasis in matters concerning the Council's 5 year programme for Slum Clearance under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

It will be noted from the Report that the duties of the Public Health Inspectors in relation to the inspection of animals slaughtered in the District was maintained at the same level as during 1955 and the survey of food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, proceeded in a most satisfactory manner.

During the year the Department lost the services of Mr. Paul Bramley who secured an appointment with another authority. Mr. Bramley had been with this Council from the time of his appointment as a junior in the Local Government Service. The Council appointed Mr. J. B. Duckworth as Additional Public Health Inspector to fill the vacancy.

Finally I would express my thanks to the Council, their Staff and particularly the Staff of the Health Department for their continued support during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE LEEDER,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

August, 1957.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

The Parishes of Fazeley and Wigginton and part of the Parish of Drayton Bassett are supplied by the Tamworth Waterworks Joint Board.

Part of the Parish of Colton is supplied with water purchased by the Council from the Rugeley Urban District Council.

The Parish or parts thereof, of Alrewas, Armitage, Brindley Heath, Burntwood, Clifton Campville, Colton, Curborough and Elmhurst, Drayton Bassett, Edingale, Elford, Farewell and Chorley, Fisherwick, Hammerwich, Hamstall Ridware, Harlaston, Hints, Kings Bromley, Longdon, Mavesyn Ridware, Shenstone, Streethay, Swinfen and Packington, Thorpe Constantine, Whittington, Weeford and Wall, are supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, for the following information relative to the piped water supplied to the District.—

“ 1. The water supply during 1956 has been satisfactory in (a) quality and (b) quantity.

2. The supply to the Lichfield Rural District is derived from eleven pumping stations which supply not only the Rural District but other areas as well.

Regular and frequent samples from all stations are examined both bacteriologically and chemically, and where treatment is installed, bacteriological examinations of the raw water are carried out.

Samples are regularly examined from the service reservoir and the repumping station at Gentleshaw as well as from various taps and hydrants in the area.

53 samples from Gentleshaw Reservoir and 53 from Gentleshaw Repumping Station were all free from coliform bacteria.

163 samples were examined from taps and hydrants and of these 156 samples were free from coliform bacteria. Six of the remaining samples confirmed aerogenes or intermediate bacteria only.

Owing to the number of sources and the relatively large area of distribution, wide variations in the chemical composition of the water supplied are found.

In 1956 the average hardness of the water at various places was as follows:—

Chase Terrace	...	120	parts per million.
Clifton Campville	...	168	„ „ „
Hamstall Ridware		173	„ „ „
Little Aston	...	217	„ „ „

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency and 126 tap samples examined during 1956 were all free from appreciable quantities of lead.
4. Chlorination is practised at most of the Pumping Stations but this is largely precautionary. In cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination of the affected fitting or structure is carried out and special apparatus and staff are available for the purpose. New mains are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
5. (a) The number of dwelling-houses supplied direct at 31st December, 1956, was 8,867, and the estimated population for these houses, based on an average of 3.75 persons per house was 33,251.
- (b) The number of houses supplied by means of stand-pipes at the end of 1956 was 50, or an estimated population of 187 persons served by this means based on the average of 3.75 persons per house."

From this information it will be seen that the District is well served with direct mains supply. The number of houses still relying on well water supplies is not precisely known but there can only be a small number in the more rural parts of the District and there have not been any complaints received as to unsatisfactory quality of well water supplies at any time during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st April, 1956 — 31st March, 1957

The cost of the Council's Public Cleansing Service, so far as can be ascertained pending balance of the Council's accounts for the year under review, amounted to £22,400.

As mentioned in the Report of 1955 the Council gave particular consideration to ways and means of securing economies in the increasing costs of the Service without detriment to the maintenance of a weekly collection.

After long discussions the Council finally accepted a recommendation of a Sub-Committee to formulate a Salvage Service for the recovering and disposal of waste paper and scrap metal from the refuse.

This service was commenced on 1st October, 1956, from a Depot sited at the Refuse Tip in Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace, and a 5 year contract was signed with a firm of Waste Paper Merchants for the disposal of all waste paper that was collected and baled by the Council.

In the year under review the amount of materials disposed of was:—

MATERIAL	WEIGHT				INCOME			EXPENDITURE			PROFIT		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	61	9	1	0	429	14	9						
Scrap Metal	10	14	0	26	144	11	9	488	11	6	134	11	8
Rags	2	2	1	24	48	16	8						
Total ..	74	5	3	22	623	3	2	488	11	6	134	11	8

In the early part of the year the Council took delivery of an 800 gallon Cesspool Emptier to replace their existing 500 gallon vehicle. This has enabled the service for the cleansing of pail closets to be extended to all parts of the District and there are now a total of between 930/950 pails cleaned each week.

HOUSING

The year under report was one of considerable activity as far as the Council's progress in housing was concerned. The five year programme of Slum Clearance formulated by the Council under Part I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and which was fully set out in the 1955 Report has been continuously under review. Complete details of the action taken by the Council are given in following paragraphs. The activity in respect of the Demolition of houses is I think a result and also a reflection on the inability over the past 20 years to secure that houses in general have received the degree of maintenance and repair which would enable them to be retained for further occupation. Even now there are still not sufficient inducements to enable owners of tenanted properties to undertake repairs of a major character which would save continued deterioration to the point when the property has to be considered for demolition. It cannot be repeated too often that for every house subject to demolition a new house must be provided at the current high building rates and it must therefore be a main purpose to secure some means which would make it economically possible for owners to undertake repairs in order to preserve existing houses.

(a) Housing Act, 1936—Section II (Demolition Orders)

Official Representations by the Medical Officer of Health were considered by the Health Committee in respect of four houses and which were found to be unfit for habitation. Demolition Orders were made in respect of three of the houses and in the remaining case the

Committee accepted an undertaking from the owner that the house would not be used for habitation until it had been rendered fit for that purpose. In each case the Council indicated that they would re-house the tenants.

(b) **Housing Acts, 1936-52—Section 25 (Clearance Areas)**

Official Representations by the Medical Officer of Health were accepted by the Council in respect of 4 areas as follows:—

(1) High Street, Colton, Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956

The area comprised a total of 4 houses covering 1.032 acres and with a population of 15 persons. A local Hearing was held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 12th September, 1956, and the decision of the Minister is now awaited.

(2) Lloyds Row, Colton, Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956

The area comprised 4 houses covering .411 acres and with a population of 15 persons.

The Order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government without modification on 8th November, 1956.

(3) Bank Top, Colton, Clearance Order, 1956.

The area comprised 4 houses covering .958 acres and with a population of 13 persons.

The Order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on 30th August, 1956.

(4) The Square, Hammerwich, Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956

The area comprised 6 houses covering .65 acres and with a population of 17 persons.

The order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government without modification on 28th May, 1957.

In the report for 1955 mention was made of the Edingale Compulsory Purchase Order, 1955, dealing with 12 houses. This Order was confirmed on the 19th November, 1956, by the Minister of Housing and Local Government with certain modifications which affected the payment of compensation only.

In all instances the formalities of procedure are now in progress to secure the clearance and demolition of the buildings in the areas and the redevelopment of the sites where necessary.

(c) Repairs to Houses

Action to secure the repair of houses is largely taken by means of informal action and during the year a total of 89 houses were dealt with in this manner. In addition formal action by means of the service of Notices under the Housing Act, 1936, or Public Health Act, 1936, secured the repair of a further 14 houses.

**(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954
(Certificates of Disrepair)**

One application for "Certificate of Disrepair" was received from a tenant who had received notice of rent increase. The application was approved and a Certificate was issued.

One application for "Revocation of Certificate of Disrepair" was received from an owner but after consideration the Council rejected the application as the work required by the Certificate had not been fully completed.

(e) Provision of New Houses

The following table gives details of the progress in the construction of new houses throughout the District.

	Completed During 1956	Under Construction at end of year.	Constructed since 1st April, 1945.
By Private Building	75	131	402
By Council	97	60	1682

In the letting of new houses every consideration is given by the Council to representations made by the Health Department on behalf of families living in overcrowded or seriously unsuitable houses.

(f) Squatters

Rehousing of the remaining occupants of the hutments at the R.A.F. Camp, Brindley Heath, was completed during the year and the necessary action to secure demolition of the site was undertaken.

(g) Housing Act, 1949 (Improvement Grants)

Details of the grants approved by the Council during the year are as follows:—

Applications				Number Granted		Total Value of Works	Total Value of Grants
Received	No. of Houses	Refused	Withdrawn	Owner/Occupier	Others		
18	22	NII,	NIL	9	9	£12,385	£5,388

SHOPS ACT

It was not necessary to institute any formal proceedings under this Act during the year. An application for the

Council to make a "Partial exemption order" under Section 48 of the Act and relating to Sunday trading was eventually withdrawn before the Order was made.

RODENT CONTROL

As a result of representations from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the Council at the end of the year were giving consideration to an extension of their service under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, to allow for the appointment of a Rodent Officer for the purpose of undertaking their complete responsibilities under the Act in relation to agricultural lands.

There were no major cases of infestation reported during the year and the few complaints received from householders were treated immediately in accordance with the methods laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) Meat and Food Inspection

There are 12 licensed slaughterhouses and 2 licensed knackers yards premises in the District. One of the slaughterhouse premises is also designated as a Certification centre for the dead-weight grading of pigs and your Inspectors act as the Grading Officers on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The inspection of animals slaughtered at these premises continues to be virtually a full-time occupation for one Inspector. The following tables give details of the numbers of carcasses inspected and the total weight of meat and other foods condemned during the year.

DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

All Diseases, except Tuberculosis:					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
CATTLE:	Carcase Meat	..	..	..	16	1	2	22
	Offals	..	..	..	4	13	3	2
CALVES:	Carcase Meat	..	..	..	—	12	0	6
	Offals	..	..	..	—	—	—	6
SHEEP:	Carcase Meat	..	..	..	—	9	2	26
	Offals	..	..	..	—	19	3	5
PIGS:	Carcase Meat	..	..	..	—	7	2	24
	Offals	..	..	..	—	13	3	25
TUBERCULOSIS only:								
CATTLE:	Carcase Meat	..	..	..	6	8	3	3
	Offals	..	..	..	4	2	2	14
CALVES:	Carcase Meat	..	..	..	—	—	1	22
	Offals	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
SHEEP:	Carcase Meat	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
	Offals	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
PIGS:	Carcase Meat	..	..	..	—	10	1	22
	Offals	..	..	..	1	14	3	21
TOTAL					36	16	0	2
OTHER FOODS					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
	Tinned Meat	..	..	..	—	1	1	18
	Bacon	..	..	..	—	—	2	2
TOTAL					—	1	3	20

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	HORSES
Number killed (if known) ..	2,483	2,003	2,498	12,881	7,859	188
Number inspected	2,483	2,003	2,498	12,881	7,859	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	4	60	16	17	9	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	280	373	4	270	390	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	11.4	21.6	0.7	2.2	5.07	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	30	1	—	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	234	272	—	—	290	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.46	15.07	0.04	—	3.7	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

(b) Ice Cream Premises

There are a total of 84 shops registered for the retail sale of Ice Cream.

Five samples of Ice cream were submitted to the Bacteriological Laboratories, Stafford, for examination.

Grade 1-3; Grade 2-0; Grade 3-1; Grade 4-1.

All samples were manufactured outside the District but sold locally.

(c) Food Premises

As a result of new legislation contained in the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, a survey of all food premises throughout the District was commenced during the year. At the end of the year under review a total of 109 premises had been inspected. In no case so far has it been necessary to ask for any works of a major character in order to bring the premises to the standard set by the Regulations and hygienic conditions in general have been found to be maintained in a satisfactory manner.

